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NEWS RELEASE

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**WASHINGTON STATE MAN CHARGED WITH MULTIPLE COUNTS
OF BANK ROBBERY AND ASSAULT ON A BANK EMPLOYEE**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that a federal grand jury returned an indictment yesterday charging MIGUEL KERCHERVAL, 43, with robbing and attempting to rob four different banks located in the Eastern District of California.

The case is being investigated by the Sacramento Violent Crimes Task Force, which includes the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office. In this case, the Sacramento Violent Crimes Task Force is being assisted by Police Departments in Tulare, California, and Reno, Nevada.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, KERCHERVAL was arrested in Reno, Nevada on unrelated charges on October 13, 2006. KERCHERVAL was later indicted in Nevada for two bank robberies in the Reno area, which occurred in August and October, 2006. Subsequent investigation by the Sacramento Violent Crimes Task Force, led to the additional charges returned yesterday by the federal grand jury in Sacramento.

Specifically, the indictment charges that KERCHERVAL attempted to rob a California Bank and Trust branch located at 1800 Arden Way, Sacramento, on September 20, 2006. It also charges that later that day KERCHERVAL robbed a Citibank branch located at 1116 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento. KERCHERVAL is further charged with attempted robbery of a Washington Mutual Bank branch located at 1079 East Prosperity Avenue, in the city of Tulare, on October 2, 2006. He is charged with punching a bank teller in the face during the course of the Tulare attempted robbery. Finally, KERCHERVAL is charged with robbing a US Bank branch located at 2851 Del Paso Road, Sacramento, on October 5, 2006.

KERCHERVAL is currently in custody in Reno, Nevada. KERCHERVAL faces up to 20 years in prison for each of the three Sacramento robberies, and up to 25 years in prison for the attempted robbery and assault in Tulare.

The United States Attorney's Office noted that the charges are only accusations, and that the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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